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NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ROAD LAOS/CAMBODIA BORDER AREA

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD K-7520 FOR COMPARISON)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE COMPLETION OF A NEW ROAD EXTENDING FROM NORTHERN CAMBODIA TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LAOS.

2. BACKGROUND:

THREE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ROAD SEGMENTS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY OBSERVED IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF LAOS AND THE NORTHERN PORTION OF CAMBODIA NEAR THE LAOS/CAMBODIA BORDER. THE ROADS ARE LOCATED FROM ATTOPEU, LAOS, AS FOLLOWS:

- A. A NORTH/SOUTH UNNUMBERED ROAD IN LAOS EXTENDED SOUTH FROM CHAVANE AIRFIELD AND TERMINATED APPROXIMATELY 39 NM EAST-SOUTHEAST OF ATTOPEU, 1.5 NM NORTH OF THE CAMBODIA BORDER AND 4 NM WEST OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER.
- B. AN EAST/WEST UNNUMBERED ROAD IN SOUTHERN LAOS HAD A WESTERN TERMINUS 8 NM SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU AND AN EASTERN TERMINUS AT THE NORTH/SOUTH UNNUMBERED ROAD IN LAOS APPROXIMATELY 29 NM EAST-SOUTHEAST OF ATTOPEU.

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C. AN UNNUMBERED ROAD IN CAMBODIA BEGAN AT
CAMBODIA ROUTE 15 ON THE EAST BANK OF THE TONLE KONG
(RIVER) (SE KONG IN LAOS), 49 NM SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU,
AND TERMINATED NORTHEAST OF BAN SAN KEO AIRFIELD IN
CAMBODIA.

3. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF TROJAN HORSE

REVEALS THE COMPLETION OF A ROAD SEGMENT WHICH CROSSES
THE LAOS/CAMBODIA BORDER APPROXIMATELY TWENTY NM SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU, AND CONNECTS THE ROADS RECENTLY UNDER
CONSTRUCTION IN THE BORDER AREA OF THESE COUNTRIES.

FROM THE PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED WESTERN TERMINUS OF
THE NEW EAST/WEST UNNUMBERED ROAD IN SOUTHERN LAOS AT
1443N 10657E (UTM YB103287), THE NEW ROAD SEGMENT
OBSERVED ON THIS PHOTOGRAPHY EXTENDS GENERALLY WESTSOUTHWEST TO THE LAOS/CAMBODIA BORDER AT 1435N 10633E
(UTM XB670129) ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SE KONG. THE
ROAD THEN EXTENDS GENERALLY SOUTHWEST INTO CAMBODIA TO
UTM XA533981, WHERE THE ROAD JOINS THE RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED
CAMBODIAN ROAD THAT EXTENDS NORTH FROM ROUTE 15.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITY IS LOCATED ALONG THIS NEW ROAD:

A PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOT IS LOCATED

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IN LAOS AT 1435N 10633E. AN ACCESS TRAIL CONNECTS
THIS AREA WITH THE NEW ROAD

A WOODEN DECK-TYPE BRIDGE HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED
IN CAMBODIA AT 1411N 10625E (UTM XA535686). NATURAL
FORDS ARE BEING UTILIZED AT ALL OTHER OBSERVED STREAM
CROSSINGS IN BOTH CAMBODIA AND LAOS. VEHICLE TRACKS
ARE OBSERVED ON A SAND BAR ADJACENT TO A NATURAL FORD
AT 1438N 10642E.

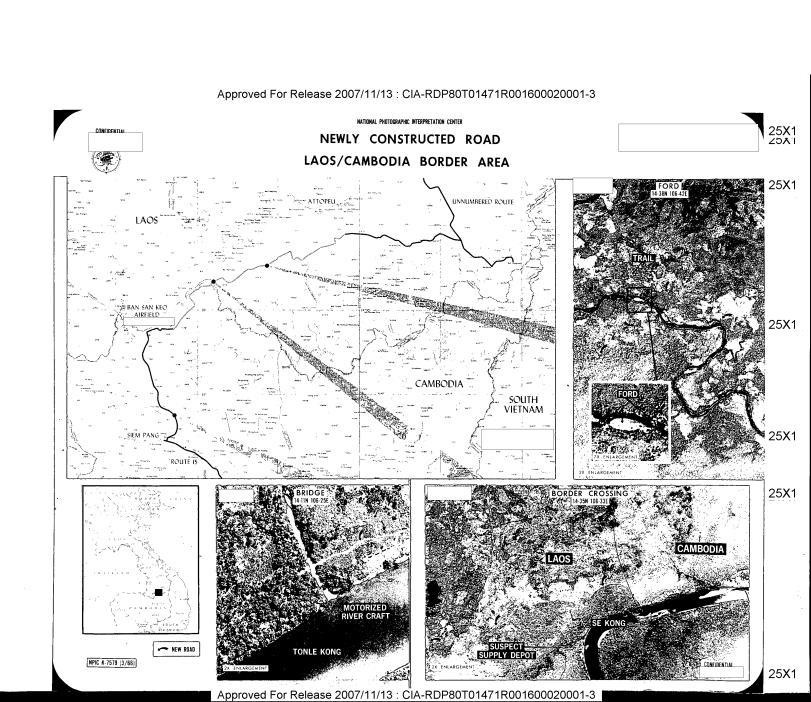
WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW ROAD SEGMENT, A MOTORABLE ROAD IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM ROUTE 15 IN CAMBODIA, NORTH AND EAST TO THE UNNUMBERED ROAD THAT EXTENDS SOUTH FROM CHAVANE. VEHICLE TRACKS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE COMBINED ROAD AS FAR EAST AS THE NORTH/SOUTH ROAD FROM CHAVANE.

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ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7011 AND L7012, SHEETS 6253 I, 6254 I, 6254 II, 6354 IV, 6354 I, AND 6355 II.

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